



City of Jacksonville

2010 OUTSTANDING VETERANS

United States Veterans have played an important role in protecting our Country and freedom for many years. These individuals have willingly put themselves in harms way to defend the lives and liberties of others.

The City is proud of its bond with our local Veterans Organizations and the Council of Veterans Organizations. Each year the City asks each Group to nominate a Veteran from their Organization for recognition as Outstanding Veteran of the Year.

At this time the City would like to show their respect and gratitude to our local Veterans by presenting the annual Veterans Awards, along with an Outstanding Citizen Lapel Pin.



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2010 OUTSTANDING VETERANS



AMVETS, POST #225

Nominee: SSgt. Michael Sharpless

During the past four year, Staff Sergeant Sharpless has volunteered almost 1,400 hours in helping with the mentoring program and with the outreach community service animal rehabilitation/enrichment program. Sergeant Sharpless is a born leader and not afraid of any hard work or new challenges.



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION OFFICE, VETERANS STAFF

Nominee: Gerardo Cruz

Gerry Cruz is the sole facilitator for the Transition Assistance Program aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and has provided direct assistance and training to over 4,800 separating and retiring service members transitioning into civilian life this past year. Mr. Cruz helps in transporting veterans to their VA medical appointments.



City of Jacksonville 2010 OUTSTANDING VETERANS



FLEET RESERVE ASSOC, BRANCH #208

Nominee: William C. Hemmingway

After a distinguished career of 20 years with the Navy, Bill Hemmingway has been actively involved with the United Way, the Red Cross and the Jacksonville Lions Club. He is a member of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, serves on the Military Affairs and Governmental Affairs Committees, and is on the Board of Directors for Marine Federal Credit Union. Bill has been a member of the Fleet Reserve since 1955 and

is also an active member of the Camp Lejeune Military Retiree Council.



MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, MILITARY RETIREE COUNCIL

Nominee: MGySgt. Ken J. DiCicco,

USMC (Ret) Master Gunnery Sergeant Ken J. DiCicco USMC (Ret) has contributed significantly to the success of the Military Retiree Council including updating the Constitution and By-Laws and setting up and operating the web sites. He has also contributed many volunteer hours to the base Retired Activities Office and has been instrumental in the set up and success of

the Retiree Appreciation Day for the past two years.



City of Jacksonville

2010 OUTSTANDING VETERANS



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, ONslow COUNTY DETACHMENT #262 Nominee: Michael Rooney

Michael Rooney was recommend by the Marine Corps League, Onslow County Detachment #262 because Michael was always there to assist anyone at anytime no matter how much was asked of him. This has been greatly appreciated by the Detachment and by everyone he has helped.



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART, BEIRUT MEMORIAL CHAPTER #642

Nominee: GySgt Rose Marie Noel, USMC (Ret)

Gunnery Sergeant Rose Marie Noel was the first female member to join Beirut Memorial Chapter #642. In April, she was appointed to the position of Junior Vice Commander and appointed as the NC Department Military Order of the Purple Heart Sergeant-at-Arms in May. She heads the Chapter Scholarship program and serves on the

Military Retiree Council.



City of Jacksonville 2010 OUTSTANDING VETERANS



MONTFORD POINT MARINES ASSOCIATION, CHAPTER #10

Nominee: John D. Tate

John Tate is active in all levels of the Montford Point Marines Association, Chapter #10 and currently serves as the Chapter Financial Secretary. He volunteers on many committees within the chapter including the National Monument Committee, the Building Committee, and the Scholarship committee. Mr. Tate's efforts and leadership by example has

stimulated growth for the Chapter.



MONTFORD POINT MARINES ASSOC, LADIES AUXILIARY UNIT #10

Nominee: Patricia Pate

Patricia Pate truly exemplifies the true spirit of the Montford Point Marine Association Ladies Auxiliary in everything she has done for the organization. She has been the Ladies Auxiliary Call Roster Chairperson for well over 10 years and has chaired the Family Day Program for the past 3 years. She gives freely of her time and effort and does not ask for anything in return.



City of Jacksonville

2010 OUTSTANDING VETERANS



NABVETS, MARINE CHAPTER #0054 **Nominee: Frank Hart**

Frank Hart is a retired Marine Corps officer who is active in his church and community. He currently serves as the Secretary and as an Officer of the Executive Board for NABVETS, Marine Chapter #0054. Frank has done an outstanding job for the Chapter and is well deserving of the recognition.



NABVETS, VETERANS UNITED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE OF EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPTER #0069 **Nominee: Kara Ann Toudle**

Ms. Kara Ann Toudle is a valued member of the NABVETS – Veterans United for Community Service of Eastern North Carolina Chapter #0069. Her “can do” spirit and her very important role as a mentor has influenced the development of many adults and children.



City of Jacksonville 2010 OUTSTANDING VETERANS



NATIONAL ORDER OF TRENCH RATS, DUGOUT #483

Nominee: Joseph Traumer

Joseph Traumer has held many elected and appointed positions within the National Order of Trench Rats. He has helped many service members in understanding the VA system, filing for copies of their records, and filing for NC disability property tax relief. Mr. Traumer also provides aid to those in need. He is a born giver & very deserving of this award.



NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, DOWN EAST CHAPTER #906

Nominee: George Barrows Sr.

George Barrows has volunteered many hours in support of the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, Down East Chapter #906 including assisting with the Knight Wagon at many local community events and planning several of the Mack McKinney Award ceremonies



City of Jacksonville 2010 OUTSTANDING VETERANS



NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, CRYSTAL COAST AUXILIARY #275

Nominee: Carol D. Schwarzenbach

Carol D. Schwarzenbach is an outstanding member of the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, Crystal Coast Auxiliary #275. She is very active in the community regularly volunteering in the school system and contributes freely to many charitable organizations and nursing homes.



ONSLOW COUNTY CHAPTER #16, DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Nominee: John M. McArtor

John McArtor has been an outstanding member of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter #16 for over 24 years. John has volunteered numerous hours during the week, weekend and holidays to support various programs and events that benefited the community. He has been a volunteer driver for many years driving

our disabled veterans to their medical appointments. Of special note, John received the Presidential Volunteer Service Achievement Award earlier this year.



City of Jacksonville 2010 OUTSTANDING VETERANS



ONSLOW COUNTY UNIT #16, DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY

Nominee: Linda Childers

Linda Childers began volunteering for the DAV in 2007 as a driver to transport disabled veterans to the VA Medical Center in Fayetteville. She also is the VA Volunteer Service Representative for the Durham VA Hospital where she has been successful in organizing 2 cookouts for those veterans who can't participate in

any hospital-wide activities.



ONSLOW COUNTY COUNCIL OF VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

Nominee: Angelo Inglisa

Angelo Inglisa has been the Veterans Council Auditor for over 10 years implementing a triple counterbalance and check system of the Council's financial funds and records. He keeps the Council well informed of major legislative issues as well as issues concerning military retirees and veterans.



City of Jacksonville

2010 OUTSTANDING VETERANS



ROLLING THUNDER, INC. CHAPTER NC-5

Nominee: Paul G. Levesque

Paul Levesque is an exceptional member of Rolling Thunder, Inc. Chapter NC-5 who works enthusiastically toward their mission of keeping the POW/MIA issue alive as well as helping veterans from all wars. Paul is the Chapter President and dedicates a tremendous amount of his time volunteering in support of veterans and POW/MIA issues.



THE AMERICAN LEGION, BURTON COWELL POST #265

Nominee: Fred Worthington

Fred Worthington is a dedicated Legionnaire who has given many hours working on Legion projects such as Thursday night Bingo, Christmas Cheer and the Onslow County Fair. He presently holds the office of Adjutant for Post 265 and dedicates many hours to ensure membership is done in an accurate and timely manner.



City of Jacksonville 2010 OUTSTANDING VETERANS

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THE AMERICAN LEGION, CLARENCE MEADOWS POST #78 Nominee: James E. Harris

No Picture Available

James Harris is a dedicated member of the American Legion Clarence Meadows Post #78 and currently is their Post Commander. He has worked very hard for the community for many years and has made it his full time job to help all veterans.

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THE AMERICAN LEGION, LADIES AUXILIARY UNIT #78 Nominee: Elizabeth Carney Baggs

Elizabeth Carney Baggs became a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit in 1947 and has been actively recruiting new members since that time. While serving as Membership Chairperson, she earned the Unit special recognition on the State, Division and District level for being the first unit to reach their goal of members.



City of Jacksonville 2010 OUTSTANDING VETERANS

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THE CAPTAIN JOHN C. CARR VETERAN RESOURCE CENTER Nominee: Gary Evans

No Picture Available

Gary Evans mentored 13 young Marines and Sailors this year, giving over 900 hours of quality time to them. He helps support the Operation Deployed Santa , sends packages overseas to our troops and assists veterans in need with food and emergency needs.

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, JACKSONVILLE POST #9133 Nominee: Msgt. Paul J. Melski

No Picture Available

Master Sergeant Paul Melski has donated his time, tools and materials to repair and enhance the Post property. He reports to the Post daily to let staff know that he is there to provide any assistance needed.

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City of Jacksonville 2010 OUTSTANDING VETERANS



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, LADIES AUXILIARY POST #9133 Nominee: Shirley Gosiewski

Shirley Gosiewski is a life-member of the Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 9133. She's always the first to jump in to assist and promote the VFW's many fundraising projects. Shirley has contributed many hours of volunteer work.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, NEW TOPSAIL ISLAND POST #9983 Nominee: Ralph Gonzales

Ralph Gonzales served in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam. He has served our country proudly, and recently was on the Honor Flight to Washington, DC.



City of Jacksonville 2010 OUTSTANDING VETERANS



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, SWANSBORO W.E. BAGGS SR., POST #9960 Nominee: Sidney Sandford Haskins

Sidney Haskins is considered a pillar of the VFW, Swansboro W.E. Baggs Sr. Post #9960. He has been the chairman for the Bingo Committee for the past 5 years in which over \$60,000 has been raised and gone back into the community. He has given approximately 10,000 hours of his time to help his fellow Veterans.

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VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC., JON PANARESE CHAPTER #654 Nominee: Isaac Best

Isaac Best is an outstanding member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Jon Panarese Chapter #654. He retired after 20 years with the Marines, serving two tours of duty in Vietnam. He currently volunteers at Britthaven of Onslow where he also lives.



City of Jacksonville 2010 OUTSTANDING VETERANS



ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER #654

Nominee: Donna-Marie Crowell

Donna-Marie is very active in the Associates for Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 654. She is the AVVA representative for her chapter, for the NC State Council and is the Region 3 Director. Donna-Marie is on the National Veterans Against Drugs, Fund Raising, and Strategic Planning Committees and is the AVVA National Historian.



WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION NC-1, TARHEEL CHAPTER

Nominee: Naomi Malone

Naomi Malone served in the Marine Corps during the Korean Era and is a charter member of Women Marines Association NC-1. She has served as secretary, vice president, and treasurer for many years, and has given her time and services supporting the USO, Salvation Army, Soup Kitchen, Red Cross, and many others.



City of Jacksonville 2010 OUTSTANDING VETERANS



LOYAL ESCORTS OF THE GREEN GARTER

Nominee: Joseph G. Traumer

Joseph Traumer has been an outstanding member of the Loyal Escorts of the Green Garter for the past two years. He has been dedicated to the support of the Women's Marine Association volunteering many hours to support their various programs and events.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION CITY'S VETERAN LIAISONS:



George Barrows –

Through his dedication and volunteer work, George Barrows reminds the community that the men and women who served and fought for our Country, past, present, and future will never be forgotten. Mr. Barrows served as the City's Veteran Liaison until September of this year and we are grateful for his service.



City of Jacksonville 2010 OUTSTANDING VETERANS



Fernando Schiefelbein –

Fernando Schiefelbein is the City's newly appointed Veteran Liaison. As the City's Veteran Liaison, he is responsible for ensuring the City of Jacksonville is aware of what is happening in the Veteran community. We look forward to working with Fernando in the coming years.